(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Constitution of India clearly defines the functions of Judiciary, Executive and Legislature.

Discussion between the Prime Minister of India and the President of World Bank

*75. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of India had discussions with the President, World Bank on 19th October, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed; and

(c) the details of the decisions taken on the issues discussed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Discussions with the World Bank President focussed on how to improve disbursements in respect of ongoing projects in the country, the future pipeline of the World Bank assistance, and on the present economic situation in the country. The Prime Minister mentioned that housing, Drinking Water, Rural Roads, Primary Health and Education, Infrastructure, among others, are some of the important programmes of the Government. On the mechanism for monitoring projects, it was agreed that a senior officer would be appointed as single point Project Monitoring Authority in all States and Central Ministries having large exposure to World Bank lending for intensive supervision of these projects. The World Bank agreed to continue its support in respect of investments in infrastructure, fiscal adjustment, poverty alleviation, social, agriculture sectors and for private sector development.

Losses suffered by Air India

*76. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Air India during the current financial year till September, 1996;

(b) the main reasons for its losses; and

(c) the long term perspective plan proposed to improve the quality of its services and motivate its personnel to make Air India a profit making organisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The estimated loss of Air India for the period April to September, 1996 is Rs. 195 crores. The losses are owing to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased comptition, increased landing, handly and navigational charges, agitation of engineers etc.

(c) To improve its financial performance, Air India is taking steps to intensify its marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non-operating costs and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

Rate of Inflation during Current Financial Year

*77. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of inflation based on consumer price index and wholesale price index during the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) how this compared with those recorded during the same period of 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(c) details of reasons for rising trends in both CPI and WPI during 1996-97?